

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 GAC-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /116 W

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R 221522 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 111

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 518

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1768

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFORN SOCI SW UR IS

SUBJECT: RIKSDAG VOTES AGAINST CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS
PERSECUTION IN SOVIET UNION

REF: STOCKHOLM 1216

1. SUMMARY: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS (VPK) COMBINED IN RIKSDAG TO VOTE DOWN A MOTION BY THE THREE NON- SOCIALIST OPPOSITION PARTIES TO DECLARE SWEDISH CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN USSR. MOTION REFERRED TO WORK IN UN FOR DECLARATION AGAINST ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE. SOCDEM MAJORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PRESENTED A REPORT SUPPORTING UN INITIATIVE BUT REJECTING IDEA OF A SPECIFIC SWEDISH DECLARATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE DEBATE, LIBERAL RIKSDAGSMAN AHLMAK, POINTING TO PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS, SHARPLY CRITICIZED SOC DEMS FOR BEING SO CAUTIOUS THAT THEY DID NOT DARE MENTION USSR BY NAME IN MAJORITY REPORT.

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3. MODERATE RIKSDAGSMAN WERNER CHARACTERIZED MAJORITY REPORT AS " LAME AND WEAK", CONTRASTING IT WITH GOVERNMENT' S " BOLDNESS" IN CONDEMNING AMERICAN " WRONG- DOINGS" IN VIETNAM.

4. ARNE GEIJER, CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, ASSERTED THAT A DECLARATION AT THIS TIME MIGHT HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS. THE RIKSDAG SHOULD BE AWARE THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO HELP THESE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

5. SWEDISH MASS MEDIA, WHICH GAVE RATHER HEAVY PLAY TO STORIES ON RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN THE USSR SHORTLY BEFORE AND DURING PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN' S VISIT TO SWEDEN LAST MONTH, HAVE RECENTLY GIVEN ATTENTION TO THE ARREST OF YOUNG SOVIET SCIENTIST YEVGENY LIVITJ. LIVITJ IDENTIFIED AS SON OF FAMED SOVIET CHEMIST BENJAMIN LEVITJ WHO FELL IN DISGRACE A YEAR AGO AFTER ASKING FOR AN EMIGRATION VISA TO ISRAEL.
DOZIER

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